

AF
3683

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/994,526
Applicant(s): Akira TSUBOUCHI, Kiyoshi OKUBO and Yasushi
WATANABE
For: HOLLOW RACK SHAFT AND MANUFACTURING
METHOD THEREOF
Confirmation No.: 8523
Customer No.: 24731
Docket No.: 18733/00070
Filed: November 27, 2001
Group Art Unit: 3683
Examiner: Devon C. Kramer

RECEIVED

JAN 22 2004

GROUP 3600

MAIL STOP AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

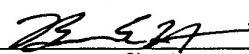
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: **MAIL STOP AF**, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

January 16, 2004

Date of Deposit

Brian E. Harris

Name of Applicant, Assignee, or Registered Representative



Signature

January 16, 2004

Date of Signature

AMENDMENT

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated October 16, 2003, which provides for a response period ending January 16, 2004.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows: